



**“Building our community, one child at a time”**

---

## **The Downtowner**

***Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown***

**January 1, 2025**

---



2025 has arrived, and we are looking forward to an amazing year for our Kiwanis Club, which will be celebrating its 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 14! We have some ambitious goals for 2025. At the top of the list is to grow our membership. Club Membership Chair **Enos Martin** has submitted a report to the District with a goal of adding 6 new members to our club this year. This will require an effort by all of us to reach out to family, friends and coworkers about joining our club. Invite them to one of our monthly dinner meetings, or a service project! Let Enos know if you have a new member prospect in mind. Another goal of ours is to increase our impact in the community by continuing our traditional service projects, and to add new ones. We try to schedule at least one service project a month. We would appreciate your help in identifying new community service opportunities. And finally, we have a goal of having at least 3 members attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh from June 25-28, 2025! **Karen Baker** and **Tom Harp** have already registered. And, we would like to have several members attend the District Midyear Conference at the Holiday Inn in Grantville on February 22, 2025.

This will be a busy year for us with many opportunities to grow our membership, and to serve more children in our community. Your active participation in our club's activities is crucial towards these efforts. Thanks for all that you do for the children of the world. And have a Happy and Healthy 2025!

## **Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon**

We did not have a typical dinner meeting last month. Instead, we welcomed 31 guests to our Annual Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Owner **Joe Tatasciore** and his staff did a marvelous job hosting us. Vice-President **Enos Martin**

welcomed everyone and **Major Santa Correa** of the Salvation Army, Allentown Corps provided an invocation. After guests introduced themselves, we were treated to a delicious hot buffet consisting of chicken piccata, crusted sole, mashed potatoes, hot vegetables and cookies for dessert. Foundation Secretary **Tom Harp** presented grant award checks to representatives of 8 non-profit organizations. Each representative reported on how the grant money would be used. A highlight of the event was the presentation of a "Legion of Honor" certificate and pin to Enos Martin for 25 years of membership in Kiwanis. Following that presentation was a delightful performance of a couple of Holiday songs by the William Allen HS Chorale. This event is always the perfect way to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas Holiday Season, with our fellow Kiwanians.



## LVCC Christmas Party!

Our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual LVCC Christmas Party, which was held on December 13 at the Judith Chase Early Learning Center (ELC) in Allentown, was a huge success! Over 150 pre-school children from 4 Lehigh Valley Children's Centers attended the party. Volunteers included 10 members of the William Allen HS Key Club and faculty advisors **Mary DiFebo** and **Steve Patterson**, 6 students enrolled in the Lehigh County Technical Institute's Early Childhood Education program, and several members of our club, including **Bob Ashcraft**,

**Young Chang, Tom Harp, Enos Martin, Todd Siegfried and Deirdre Govan.** There were several activity stations set up for the kids in the ELC gym, including games, coloring, and craft projects. Volunteers prepared and served our traditional fun lunch of chicken nuggets, box drinks, and cookies. Alas, we were unable to include petite baby carrots due to a recall of that product at Sam's Club. Each child received two gifts courtesy of **Toys for Tots**. And each child was able to take home a personal photo with Santa! This was a joyful event that will live on in the memories of those young children.



**Preparing the Nuggets!**



**Fun in the Gym**



**Key Club Assembly Line**



**Santa Todd!**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

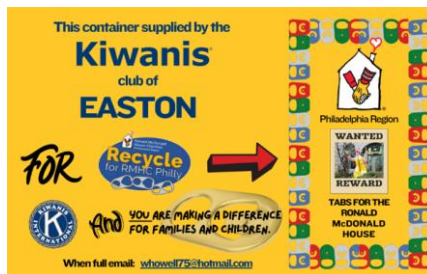
## Holiday Hope Chests



Karen, Deb and Katelyn

We were successful in fulfilling our pledge of 29 Holiday Hope Chests last month. We would like to thank everyone who donated a gift or two to this cause. It made many needy children in our local community very happy!

## Pull Tab Fundraiser



Our club was recently approached by the Kiwanis Club of Easton about participating in a fundraiser to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. We will be collecting pull tabs from soda cans, soup cans, etc. After you remove the tabs, save them and bring to a future meeting of our club. There is a large plastic jug with a customized label on it that is being stored at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. They have agreed to discard their pull tabs in the jug as well. In November of this year, the jugs will be collected and taken down to a Ronald McDonald House in Philly, where they will be weighed, and the value of the scrap metal will be donated to that facility, which houses the families of critically ill children being treated at local hospitals. This is a wonderful cause that costs you nothing to participate in. So, save up those pull tabs and bring them to a meeting.

## Service Leadership Programs



Our Key Clubs were very busy last month as well. The Allen HS Key Club helped out at our annual LVCC Christmas Party on December 13. The Salisbury HS Key Club has

collected close to 100 gifts for Lily's Hope Foundation and other organizations. They will also be meeting with Lehigh Valley Children's Centers South Mountain Campus in order to conduct a book drive at the school for the Little Free Library, and to read with the children after school. The Lehigh Christian Academy Key Club Advisor Kim VanAken reports that "Our Key Club has been hard at work with our annual Operation Christmas Child boxes. Our students took charge of getting the word out within our school community, as well as getting the boxes ready for transportation to a collection point. Operation Christmas Child is an outreach from Samaritan's Purse. It not only gives children in other countries basic necessities like personal hygiene items and school supplies, but also small toys and a copy of a Bible study. The Key Club collected over a hundred boxes to be sent out to kids in need." She also reported that the students have collected gently used/new winter gear to donate to local charities.

Enos Martin reports that the Raub Middle School Builders Club assembled a dozen holiday wreaths with sugar-free candy and donated them to indigent residents of the Phoebe Home. And the K-Kids Club at the Ramos Elementary School will be electing officers and selectin service projects at their next meeting.

## **A Glance Into Our Past**

### ***100 Years Ago – January 1925***

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 121. In July 1923, US President Warren G. Harding visited Vancouver, BC, on his way home from Alaska. The visit attracted a lot of attention, partly because it was the first time a US president would make a speech on Canadian soil during his term in office. In his brief visit, a huge crowd greeted him. One week later on August 2, 1923, President Harding unexpectedly died.

President Harding had been a Kiwanian and businessman in Marion, OH, prior to his election as president. Kiwanis International decided to erect a memorial at the location of his speech with each member of each Kiwanis Club in the United States and Canada contributing a small amount to build the memorial which cost over \$37,000. At its January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Club President Clarence E. Stauffer brought this to the attention of the club's membership. Every member of the Allentown Club donated to the cause. The memorial was unveiled in July 1925. The memorial still exists in Stanley Park in Vancouver.



### ***75 Years Ago – January 1950***

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 155. Led by a member of the Allentown Kiwanis Club, the building fundraising campaign for the Sacred Heart Hospital exceeded its goal of \$300,000 by \$20,000. The campaign was assisted by many members of the club.

### **50 Years Ago – January 1975**

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 141. At its January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Lehigh Valley Club (now the location of the Community Music School), Dave Schneck, a major league baseball player and a graduate of Whitehall School, spoke about his experiences with the New York Mets and the 1975 National League pennant race. He was a member of the Phillies after having been traded by the Mets to Philadelphia.

### **25 Years Ago – January 2000**

The Club began the New Year with a total active membership of 52. At its January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Allentown Hilton, Allentown Mayor William Heydt addressed the club with a focus on the current and future issues which faced the City of Allentown. Major issues included the fluoridation of the city water system and a one-mill tax increase.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, January 9, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Speaker TBA.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, January 30, 5 PM on Zoom.**



**January Birthdays**



**NONE!**

**January Anniversary**

**Susan Martin - 6 years**



- **Tom Harp, Editor**